

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 SY-05 L-02 /023 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9535

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ABLD, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET MR. ALTO PROJECT

REF: STATE 09559

1. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME FORWARD TO NCPC FINAL DESIGN PLANS FOR SOVIET EMBASSY SINCE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET APPROVED OUR PRELIMINARY DESIGN PLANS PRESENTED TO THEM ON FEBRUARY 12, 1975.

2. HOWEVER, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT TELLING SOVIETS APPROVAL THEIR FINAL DESIGNS CANNOT BE GRANTED UNTIL OUR FINAL DESIGN PLANS ALSO APPROVED PLACES US IN UNTENABLE POSITION SINCE WE HAVE NOT YET PREPARED OR SUBMITTED TO SOVIETS OUR FINAL DESIGN PLANS. ACCORDINGLY, BELIEVE AFTER SOVIETS APPROVE OUR PRELIMINARY DESIGN PLANS DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED ACCEPT SOVIET FINAL PLANS FOR FINAL EXAMINATION AND CONSIDERATION RATHER THAN INFORMING SOVIETS OUTRIGHT THAT THEIR FINAL DESIGN PLANS CANNOT BE APPROVED UNTIL OURS ARE ALSO APPROVED.

3. IF WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ADHERE TO POSITION THAT WE WILL NOT CONSIDER APPROVAL SOVIET PLANS UNTIL OUR AS YET UNSUBMITTED PLANS ARE APPROVED, WE SORESEE SERIES OF COMPLICATIONS. FIRST AS INFLATION INCREASE COSTS OF SOVIET PROJECT, THEY WILL ATTEMPT RECOUP THEIR LOSSES BY ANY MEANS FROM OUR PROJECT. SECOND, SOVIETS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ARGUE WITH CONSIDERABLE JUSTIFICATION THT ARTICLE 6 OF CONDITIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT REFERS TO SIMULTANEITY ONLY IN REGARD

TO OCCUPATION OF CHANCERIES. FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANT, IF WE ATTEMPT TO HOLD TO A POSITION OF STEP-BY-STEP SIMULTANEITY WHEN DELAYS ARE ON OUR SIDE AND THIS POSITION IS NOT BASED ON CLEAR PROVISIONS OF 1972 AGREEMENT, ISSUE COULD BECOME A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL IRRITANT TO OUR RELATIONSHIP AND IMPRINGER UPON LARGER POLICY OBJECTIVES.

4. THIS SITUATION POINTS UP URGENT NEED FOR RAPID PROGRESS IN PREPARING OUR FINAL DESIGN PLANS. EVEN THOUGH SOVIETS HAVE NOT GIVEN WRITTEN APPROVAL OUR PRELIMINARY DESIGN, EMBASSY BELIEVES APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY, PARTICULARLY IF SOVIETS, WHO ARE ANXIOUS OBTAIN APPROVAL THEIR FINAL DESIGN PLANS, ARE INFORMED THIS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE WE RECEIVE APPROVAL OUR PRELIMINARY PLANS. FURTHER, SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED ORALLY THEY AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO OUR OVERALL DESIGN. ANY CHANGES THEY MAY REQUEST WILL PROBABLY BE MINOR AND LIMITED TO DETAILS WHICH SHOULD NOT REQUIRE EXTENSIVE REVISION. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY HOPES DEPARTMENT WILL NOW BE ABLE PROCEED SOONEST WITH PREPARATION FINAL DESIGN PLANS.
STOESSEL

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